

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 03221 241543Z

61

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 IO-10 /079 W
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R 241500Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3231
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 3221

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO CB

SUBJ: CAMBODIAN FONMIN VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

1. CAMBODIAN FONMIN SHARI CHAK VISITED YUGOSLAVIA
JUNE 17-18 AS SPECIAL ENVOY OF PRINCE SIHANOUK. HE BROUGHT A
MESSAGE FROM SIHANOUK TO TITO THANKING YUGOSLAVIA FOR SUPPORT
DURING "CAMBODIAN PEOPLES' STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM" AND ASSISTANCE
IN DEVELOPMENT OF CAMBODIA.

2. DURING VISIT CHAK MET WITH VICE PRESIDENT BAKARIC TO WHOM
HE HANDED SIHANOUK'S MESSAGE AND WITH FONSEC MINIC FOR
DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS
AND INTERNAL CAMBODIAN SITUATION.

3. SOUTHEAST ASIAN DESK OFFICER (HORNJAK) IN FONSECRETARIAT
TOLD US THAT CHAK CAME TO YUGOSLAVIA DIRECTLY FROM PEKING BUT
THAT HE WAS RECOGNIZED AS FONMIN OF PRESENT CAMBODIAN GOVT
BY EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF CAMBODIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
WHICH MET APR 25-27. HORNJAK STATED THAT NONE OF
CAMBODIANS, KHMER ROUGE OR OTHERWISE, WHO WERE OUTSIDE CAMBODIA
WHEN KHMER ROUGE TOOK OVER HAVE SINCE RETURNED TO CAMBODIA.
HOWEVER, YUGOSLAVS KNEW THAT PHNOM PENH WAS AWARE OF CHAK'S
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 03221 241543Z

VISIT AND PRESUMABLY APPROVED OF IT SINCE THE VISIT WAS

ANNOUNCED BY PHNOM PENH RADIO. THE GOY HAD NO CAUSE TO QUESTION CHAK'S CREDENTIALS OR BONA FIDES.

4. HORNJAK CAUTIOUSLY DISCUSSED CONTENTS OF MINIC-CHAK CONVERSATION IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTIONS. CHAK RECOUNTED MAYAGUES INCIDENT FROM CAMBODIAN STANDPOINT, TAKING ISSUE WITH US VERSION OF INCIDENT AT SEVERAL POINTS, E.G., SHIP'S CREW WAS RELEASED BEFORE US ATTACK AND OBVIATED ANY NEED FOR VIOLENCE, CAMBODIA HAD NOT PERCEIVED US WARNINGS AS FINAL ULTIMATUM, SHIP WAS CLEARLY IN CAMBODIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND WAS ON UNFRIENDLY MISSION. HONRJAK AGREED WITH OBSERVATION THAT INTERNAL CAMBODIAN SITUATION IS STILL UNCLEAR BUT STATED THAT CAMBODIA WILL REOPEN PHNOM PENH AND RE-ESTABLISH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC AND BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH OUTSIDE WORLD AT "AN EARLY DATE". (PRESSED ON MORE SPECIFIC TIME FRAME HORNJAK, WHO HAS HAD RECENT ASSIGNMENTS IN HANOI AND PEKING, WOULD ONLY NOTE THAT TIME HAS A DIFFERENT MEANING IN ORIENTAL CONTEXT). SIHANOUK IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH AS CHIEF OF STATE BEFORE THESE EVENTS TAKE PLACE.

5. OFFERING PERSONAL EVALUATION, HONRJAK SAID HE BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH KHIEW SAM PHAN AND HIS CLOSE ASSOCIATES IN PEKING. HE DESCRIBED THIS GROUP OF YOUNG CAMBODIAN INTELLECTUALS, MOST OF WHOM WERE EDUCATED IN PARIS, AS REALISTIC AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THEY WILL FIND "THE RIGHT SOLUTIONS" TO CAMBODIA'S CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS WHICH WERE BROUGHT ON BY WAR AND EXACERBATED BY POVERTY AND BACKWARDNESS. HONRJAK SAID THAT WHEN PHON PENH IS REOPENED TO OUSIDERS THEY WOULD SEE THAT CAMBODIA IS REALISTICALLY PURSUING ITS OWN PATH OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. (HE HESITATED TO USE WORD SOCIALISM.)

SILBERMAN

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